

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092349
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW;S/P:MSPIEGEL

APPROVED BY AF:WSCHAUFLE

P:PHABIB

S/P:ALAKE

AF:WEDMONDSON

WH:JKATZEN

S/S :SESTEINER

-----242126Z 102527 /66

O 242118Z APR 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 092349

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS-3

TAGS: PFOR RH US UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA-UK-US CONSULTATIONS

REF: LONDON 06593

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER OWEN'S PROPOSAL THAT THE NEXT STEP IN THE RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE JOINT UK-US BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADERS IN AFRICA AND THAT WE SHOULD ADOPT A COMMON POSITION IN PREPARATION FOR SUCH CONVERSATIONS. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THIS CAN BE SUFFICIENTLY EXPLORED WITH BOTH BRITISH AND APPROPRIATE AFRICANS IN TIME FOR THURSDAY ANNOUNCEMENT. IN THE VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE TASK MOST IMMEDIATELY BEFORE US NOW

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IS TO GAIN SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE OF THE FRONT LINE STATES AND THEN NATIONALIST LEADERS IN ANTICIPATION OF A CONFERENCE. THIS SHOULD BE THE MAIN PURPOSE OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND THE FOCUS OF NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

2. WITH THIS AIM, WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA:

A. DISCUSSION OF ATTITUDES OF NATIONALISTS AND FRONT LINE LEADERS TO THE CONFERENCE AND TO U.S. PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT UK-US IMPARTIALITY.

B. ORGANIZATION, TACTICS AND OBJECTIVES OF JOINT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS.

C. DISCUSSION OF A UNITED STATES ROLE DURING AND BEYOND THE CONFERENCE THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES. DISCUSSION SHOULD INCLUDE:

-- THE PROPOSED UNITED STATES ROLE IN THE CONFERENCE.

-- THE PROPOSED UNITED STATES ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AGREEMENT.

-- PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS RELATING TO ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

D. DISCUSSION OF THE CONTINGENCY OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE BY SOME OF THE GENEVA PRINCIPALS.

-- WHETHER THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONVENED SHOULD ONE OR MORE NATIONALIST GROUPS BE UNWILLING TO PARTICIPATE.

-- WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN IF SMITH POSES UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION, LEAVES THE CONFERENCE, OR IS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT GENUINE MAJORITY RULE?

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PAGE 03 STATE 092349

-- WHAT PRESSURES AND INDUCEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE WHICH WILL INCREASE THE CHANCES FOR BRINGING BOTH SMITH AND THE NATIONALIST GROUPS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE CONCLUSION?

E. NATURE AND KEY ISSUES OF NEGOTIATING A CONSTITUTION AND HOLDING ELECTIONS.

F. TIMETABLE FOR FURTHER STEPS.

G. ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION, RECOGNIZING THERE COULD BE DISCUSSION WEDNESDAY OF POSSIBLE PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT THURSDAY.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY TO THE FCO ON MONDAY OUR THINKING ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA AND ON THE NEED TO CONSULT MORE FULLY WITH AFRICAN LEADERS, WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT, WHILE AGENDA IS TENTATIVE IN NATURE, IT REFLECTS OUR DESIRE TO REVIEW THOROUGHLY THE RESULTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF OWEN'S AFRICAN TRIP BEFORE WE MAKE ANY FIRM DECISION ON SPECIFIC

NEXT STEPS. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THE U.S. REMAINS
FIRMLY COMMITTED TO COOPERATION WITH THE BRITISH ON THIS
ISSUE, AND, AS AARON EXPRESSED TO OWEN ON APRIL 22, WE WANT
TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT WE DO NOT TAKE ANY MIS-STEPS
WHICH WILL PRECIPITATE A CONFRONTATION WITH THE NATIONAL-
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TIONS.
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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: SSTEINER

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: SSTEINER

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O 250405Z APR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 092349

NODIS
FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION LONDON FROM STATE APRIL 24:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 092349

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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